

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for evaluating electronic value transfers, the method
2 comprising:
3 receiving a plurality of money transfer requests, wherein the money transfer
4 requests include a first sender identification associated with a first money transfer request and
5 at least a second sender identification associated with a second money transfer request;
6 electronically storing records of the money transfer requests;
7 performing an analysis of the records, wherein the analysis indicates the first
8 sender identification and the second sender identification are related;
9 creating a reference designator, wherein the reference designator is associated
10 with the first sender identification and the second sender identification; and
11 searching the records of the money transfer requests according to a specified
12 criteria to determine if any of the money transfer requests associated with the reference
13 designator are suspect money transfer requests; and
14 flagging any suspect money transfer requests.

2 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the analysis comprises:
3 a hierarchical comparison of the first sender identification with the second
4 sender identification.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the hierarchical comparison comprises
2 the sequential process:

3 (1) comparing a phone number in the first sender identification with a phone
4 number in the second sender identification;

5 (2) comparing an exact name in the first sender identification with an exact
6 name in the second sender identification; and

7 (3) comparing a phonetic name in the first sender identification with a
8 phonetic name in the second sender identification.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the analysis further comprises:
2 an iterative learning of a reliable factor for identifying suspect money transfer
3 requests; and
4 updating the hierarchical comparison to incorporate the reliable factor.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first sender identification is
2 selected from a group consisting of a sender name, a sender number, an agent number, a
3 sending data, a sending location, a sender phone number, a sending time, a sending message,
4 and a sending amount.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the flagging any suspect money
2 transfer requests comprises identifying the reference designator as a known suspect user, the
3 method further comprising:

4 searching the records to determine if any of the money transfer requests are
5 either initiated or received by the known suspect user.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the searching is done in real-time and
2 wherein the known suspect user is identified in real-time.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the flagging any suspect money
2 transfer requests comprises identifying the reference designator as a known suspect user, the
3 method further comprising:

4 determining that transfers of a known suspect user are legitimate, and
5 identifying the known suspect user as a known legitimate user, wherein monitoring of money
6 transfers associated with the known legitimate user are reduced.

1 9. The method of claim 1, the method further comprising:
2 parsing the money transfer requests, wherein the records of the money transfer
3 requests are stripped of data that is not necessary to detecting suspect money transfers.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein a first receiver identification is
2 associated with the first money transfer request and a second receiver identification is
3 associated with the second money transfer request, and wherein the analysis utilizes:
4 at least one of the first and second sender identifications; and
5 at least one of the first and second receiver identifications.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the first receiver identification is
2 selected from a group consisting of a receiver name, a receiver number, an agent number, a
3 receiver data, a receiving location, a receiver phone number, a receiving time, a receiver
4 language, a receiver message, and a receiving amount.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the reference designator is further
2 associated with one or both of the first receiver identification and the second receiver
3 identification.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the reference designator is maintained
2 on a first database and the records are maintained on a second database, whereby a
3 performance impact of the method upon a money transfer system under evaluation is reduced.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the searching the records is done in a
2 batch mode at an off-peak time for the money transfer system.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the suspect money transfer requests
2 are selected from a group consisting of:

3 (a) a transfer from a first sender to a second sender followed within a specified
4 period by a transfer from the second sender to the first sender;

5 (b) a group of transfers from a sender to a group of receivers, wherein the
6 aggregate amount of the group of transfers exceeds a specified level;

7 (c) one or more transfers from a sender to a receiver, wherein the aggregate
8 amount of the one or more transfers exceeds a specified level;

9 (d) a group of transfers from a group of senders to a receiver, wherein the
10 aggregate amount of the group of transfers exceeds a specified level;

11 (e) two transfers from a first sender to a second sender that are followed within
12 a specified period by corresponding transfers from the second sender to a receiver;

13 (f) two or more transfers from a sender to a receiver, wherein the two or more
14 transfers are initiated from two or more distinct locations within a region; and

15 (g) two or more transfers from a sender to a receiver, wherein the two or more
16 transfers are received at two or more distinct locations within a region.

1 16. A method for evaluating electronic value transfers, the method
2 comprising:

3 accessing a money transfer record, wherein the money transfer record includes
4 a sender identification and a receiver identification;

5 assigning a master location identifier to the money transfer record, wherein the
6 master location identifier is determined by one or both of the sender identification and the
7 receiver identification;

8 comparing the money transfer record to a reference designator using a
9 specified criteria, wherein one or more fields of the reference designator or the money
10 transfer record indicate a relationship between the reference designator and the money
11 transfer record; and
12 associating the money transfer record with the reference designator.

1 17. A method for iteratively compiling suspect money transfer activities
2 from money transfer records, the method comprising:
3 accessing a first money transfer record;
4 providing a first reference designator, wherein the first reference designator is
5 associated with one or more of a sender identification and a receiver identification from a
6 second money transfer record;
7 comparing the first money transfer record to the first reference designator
8 using a specified criteria, wherein the comparison indicates the first money transfer record is
9 not related to the first reference designator; and
10 creating a second reference designator, wherein the second reference
11 designator is associated with one or more of a sender identification and a receiver
12 identification from the first money transfer record.

1 18. The method of claim 17, the method further comprising:
2 accessing a third money transfer record;
3 comparing the third money transfer record to the first reference designator
4 using the specified criteria, wherein one or more fields of the first reference designator or the
5 third money transfer record indicate a relationship between the first reference designator and
6 the third money transfer record; and
7 associating the third money transfer record with the first reference designator.

1 19. The method of claim 17, the method further comprising:
2 attaching a time stamp to the second reference designator, wherein the second
3 reference designator expires at a future time associated with the time stamp.

1 20. The method of claim 17, the method further comprising:
2 maintaining the first and second reference designators in a reference
3 designator list apart from the first and second money transfer records, wherein a performance
4 impact of the method upon a money transfer system under evaluation is reduced.

- 1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the reference designator list is a
2 progressive history of money transfer relationships.
- 1 22. The method of claim 17, wherein the specified criteria comprises a
2 hierarchical comparison.
- 1 23. A method for evaluating electronic value transfers, the method
2 comprising:
3 receiving money transfer requests, wherein the money transfer requests
4 include a user identification associated each of the money transfer requests;
5 electronically storing records of the money transfer requests;
6 providing the records of the money transfer requests to a fraud processing
7 computer; and
8 receiving an indication of a suspect money transfer request, wherein the
9 indication includes the user identification associated with the suspect money transfer request.
- 1 24. A system for evaluating value transfers, the system comprising:
2 a fraud processing computer; and
3 a computer readable medium associated with the fraud processing computer,
4 wherein the computer readable medium comprises computer instructions executable by the
5 fraud processing computer to:
6 access a first money transfer record;
7 provide a first reference designator, wherein the first reference
8 designator is associated with one or more of a sender identification and a receiver
9 identification from a second money transfer record;
10 compare the first money transfer record to the first reference designator
11 using a specified criteria, wherein the comparison indicates the first money transfer record is
12 not related to the first reference designator; and
13 create a second reference designator, wherein the first reference
14 designator is associated with one or more of a sender identification and a receiver
15 identification from the first money transfer record.
- 1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the computer instructions are further
2 executable by the fraud processing computer to:
3 access a third money transfer record;

4 compare the third money transfer record to the first reference designator using
5 a specified criteria, wherein one or more fields of the first reference designator or the third
6 money transfer record indicate a relationship between the first reference designator and the
7 third money transfer record; and
8 associate the third money transfer record with the first reference designator.

1 26. The system of claim 25, the system further comprising:
2 a database associated with the fraud processing computer, wherein the first
3 and the second reference designators are maintained on the database.

1 27. A system for transferring value, the system comprising:
2 a money transfer system; and
3 a fraud processing server communicably coupled to the money transfer
4 system, wherein money transfer records associated with the money transfer system are
5 accessible by the fraud processing server to identify any suspect money transfers.
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